

BOROUGH OF REIGATE,



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

T. H. BINGHAM, M.D., D.P.H.

TOGETHER WITH THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

G. JANES, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

1948



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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health (also Divisional County Medical Officer) :

THOMAS H. BINGHAM, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officers (part-time) :

*LOVEDAY S. FARQUHARSON, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

*FRANCES M. BOWLES-PRICE, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Obstetric Consultant (part-time) :

*JOHN BEATTIE, M.D., F.R.C.S.

Dental Officer (part-time) :

*BERNARD COOKE, L.D.S., F.R.I.P.H.H.

Public Analyst (part-time) :

D. D. MOIR, M.Sc., F.I.C.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

GILBERT JANES, Cert.R.S.I., Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Sanitary Inspectors :

CLEMENT S. T. DANCER, Cert.R.S.I., Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

REGINALD FRANKHAM, Cert.R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B., Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

MAURICE H. STOCKLEY, Cert.R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B. (from 1st November, 1948).

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors :

ARTHUR J. STEWART (until 27th Sept., 1948).

HAROLD R. SCOTT

Disinfecting Officer :

FREDERICK G. STEWART.

Pests Officer :

JOHN KEMPSHALL.

Rodent Operator :

EDWARD E. ARNOULD (from 1st November, 1948).

Superintendent Health Visitor and Child Protection Visitor :

*MABEL DALLARD, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitors' Certificate.

Health Visitors :

*FRANCES PHILLIPS, S.R.N., S.R.F.N., S.C.M., Health Visitors' Certificate.

*LILIAN F. PROCKTOR, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitors' Certificate.

*NORA E. HAINS, S.R.N., S.R.C.N., S.C.M., Health Visitors' Certificate.

*EURWEN THOMAS, S.R.N., Health Visitors' Certificate

Clerks :

VERA VERRALL.

MARJORIE M. TREADGOLD.

*ELIZABETH D. STANNARD.

RONALD MARSDIN (from 9th February, 1948).

*Transferred to the service of the Surrey County Council on 5th July, 1948.

INDEX TO SECTIONS.

PAGES

SECTION	I. Statistics and Social Conditions ..	8 to 13
„	II. General Provision of Health Services for the Area	14 „ 17
„	III. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area ..	17 „ 22
„	IV. Housing	22 „ 25
„	V. Inspection and Supervision of Food ..	26 „ 29
„	VI. Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases	29 „ 41
„	VII. Maternity and Child Welfare	41 „ 52
REPORT	of Chief Sanitary Inspector	53 „ 72

CONTENTS.

Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939 ..	50
Ambulance Facilities	15
Bacteriological Examination of Food	28
Bacteriological Examination of Milk	27 and 64
Bacteriological Work	39
Bed Bugs, Eradication of	21
Birth Control	42
Births	11 and 44
Building Repair Licences	70
Camping Sites	20
Child Life Protection	48
Clinics and Treatment Centres	16
Closet Accommodation	19
Complaints Received, Summary of	68
Day Nursery Provision	52
Deaths	11
Dental Treatment	47
Diphtheria	33
Diseases of Animals Act—Disinfection	64
Disinfection	39 and 56
Domiciliary Visits	51
Dysentery	34
Erysipelas	36
Factories Act, 1937	21 and 67
Food and Drugs Act	28, 62, and 64
Food Poisoning	36
Food Supply	61
Health Visiting	16
Home Help Scheme	44
Hospitals	16
Housing Statistics	24
Ice-Cream	28 and 62
Illegitimate Children	50
Infant Mortality	45
Infant Welfare Clinics	45
Infectious Diseases	30

CONTENTS—*Continued.*

PAGES

Influenza	38
Insulin, Supply of	17
Isolation Hospital Accommodation	29
Laboratory Facilities	14
Malaria	35
Maternal Mortality	44
Measles	35
Meat Inspection	27 and 58
Milk (Special Designations) Orders	27
Milk Supply	26 and 63
Minor Ailments Clinics	47
Mortuaries	72
Notices Issued	68
Nuisances Abated	69
Nursing Arrangements	15 and 43
Nursing Home Provision	44
Obstetric Consultant	43
Occupations	8
Ophthalmic Clinic	47
Orthopædic Treatment	48
Pediculosis	40
Pneumonia	34
Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	35
Population	11
Premature Infants	49
Puerperal Pyrexia	34
Rat Destruction	71
River Pollution	19
Sanitary Inspection of Area	20
Scabies	41
Scarlet Fever	30
Scavenging	19
Schick Testing and Diphtheria Immunisation	33
Sewerage	19
Shell-fish	29
Shops and Offices	20
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933	63
Smallpox	30
Smoke Abatement	20
Staff	5 and 14
Still-births	45
Swimming Baths and Pools	21
Timber Certificates	70
Tuberculosis	36
Tuberculous Milk	27
Verminous Houses	56
Vital Statistics	9
Water Supply	17
Whooping Cough	35

BOROUGH OF REIGATE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough of Reigate in the year 1948.

The Report is drawn up generally in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health and, at the Minister's request, special reference is made to certain subjects of current interest with which the local health services are directly concerned. In other respects, the Report follows the arrangement of earlier issues in the same series and is, in general, confined to a brief record of the work of the public health services of the Borough, and of important alterations, improvements and developments of these services, in the year under review.

There was no cause of sickness or invalidity that was specially noteworthy in the area during the year, with the exception of measles which, following a well-defined cycle, appeared in epidemic form after several consecutive years of low prevalence. There was also an outbreak of whooping-cough which, though not extensive, was troublesome mainly because of its persistence and sporadic distribution. The case rates for other specific infective conditions were, however, very much below the average; scarlet fever, influenza, acute infections of the nervous system and respiratory tuberculosis were all much reduced in prevalence and,

for the first time on record, not a single case of diphtheria was reported in the Borough. The reduction in incidence of scabies and other forms of verminous infestation is also noteworthy.

The vital statistics relating to the Borough are no less favourable than any previously recorded or than those for towns of comparable size. The birth rate of 15.6 per thousand of the population is the second lowest observed in the upward trend that began in 1940, but is still appreciably above the average for the immediate pre-war years. The fall in the birth rate in 1948 was not accompanied by a corresponding reduction in the proportion of infants registered as still-born, nor of those who failed to survive the first year. With regard to the latter, however, it should be noted that the infant mortality rate, which was 28 per thousand live births, has only once been lower ; that was in 1947, when the exceptionally low rate of 20 was recorded. No mortality was attributed to pregnancy, child-bearing or other maternal causes. The general death rate of 10.8 per thousand is the lowest for twenty-five years, mainly because of the reduction in mortality from acute respiratory affections, cancer, heart disease and other degenerative conditions occurring in association with senility.

With regard to the personal health services available in the area, the outstanding event of the year was the coming into force of the National Health Service Act. Amongst other changes introduced by the Act, certain powers and duties of the Borough Council were transferred to other official bodies. For example, the isolation in hospital of the infectious sick, the provision of consultant services for certain purposes and the supply of anti-diphtheritic serum became the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, acting through its local Group Hospital Management Committee : the powers formerly exercised by the Borough Council in relation to maternity and child welfare were transferred to the Surrey County Council. The powers referred to, obligatory and optional, had been fully and effectively used since 1916, and the various services established thereunder have largely achieved the objects for which they were originally provided. The nature and scope of these services have not as yet been materially affected by changes in the system of administration.

Under the County Council's scheme of divisional administration, the day to day management of certain of the personal health services has been delegated to Divisional Health Sub-committees, thereby conferring some measure of local autonomy in the control of the services concerned. Delegation at present applies to functions relating to the care of mothers and children, health visiting, vaccination and immunisation, health education, supply of home helps and the prevention of illness, care and after-care. The boundaries of the Southern Division, which includes the Borough of Reigate, co-incide with those of the area already defined for divisional educational and school health functions. Apart from administrative convenience, this arrangement will promote continuity and co-ordination of the activities of the two groups of personal health services, particularly in their application to children. There is ample reason to believe that the new system, when fully in operation, will prove to be efficient and satisfactory in practice.

I have again to record my sincere appreciation of the efficient and conscientious service rendered by my staff, the assistance and close co-operation of officials engaged in other departments of the Corporation and the support and consideration extended to me throughout the year by the Chairmen and Members of Committees.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. H. BINGHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

REIGATE.

27th July, 1949.

SECTION I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (Land and Inland Water)	..	..	..	10,255 acres
Population, Census 1931 (enlarged Borough)	..			34,547
Registrar-General's estimate of resident civilian population, mid-year, 1948	..	..	..	41,770
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1948 according to Rate Books	..	..	..	11,404
Rateable Value (1948)	..	..	..	£426,004
Sum represented by a Penny Rate..	..	..	..	£1,712

Chief Occupations of the Inhabitants.

The most recent official information concerning the numbers of males and females engaged in certain occupations is contained in the Industry Tables compiled from the returns of the 1931 Census.

Extracts from the Industry Tables have been included in recent reports and are not now reproduced, as the changes since the Census was taken, and more especially since the outbreak of war, render them of little value as a statement of the occupations followed by the inhabitants of the district.

TABLE I.
EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births :—

Legitimate	..	Males	298	Females	313	Total	611
Illegitimate	..	Males	16	Females	25	Total	41

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.6
Do. 1947	..	..	..	..	..	..	19.6
Do. for the five years 1943 to 1947	..	..	..	..	..	..	17.7

Still Births :—

Males	..	8	Females	10	Total	18
-------	----	---	---------	----	-------	----

Rate per 1,000 total births	..	..	..	..	..	26.8
Do. do. 1947	..	..	..	..	..	18.5

Deaths (nett) :—

Males	..	198	Females	255	Total	453
-------	----	-----	---------	-----	-------	-----

Do. 1947 :—

Males	..	244	Females	290	Total	534
-------	----	-----	---------	-----	-------	-----

Death Rate	..	..	..	..	..	10.8
Do. 1947	..	..	..	..	..	13.1
Do. for the five years 1943 to 1947	..	..	..	..	..	13.3

Percentage of total deaths occurring in Public Institutions 41.5

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

			<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births</i>
Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	0	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	..	..	0	„
Total	..	..	0	„

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	27.60
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	27.82
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	24.39

Deaths from :—

Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	73
Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	0
Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	0

TABLE II.
Birth-Rates, Civilian Death-Rates and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1948.

	Rate per 1,000 Population.		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE per 1,000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.								Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births	Still-Births	All Causes	Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fevers	Tuberculosis	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Small-pox	Pneumonia	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years).	Total deaths under one year
England and Wales	17.9	0.42	10.8	0.00	0.51	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.41	3.3	34
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	20.0	0.52	11.6	0.00	0.59	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.38	4.5	39
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census)	19.2	0.43	10.7	0.00	0.46	0.02	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.36	2.1	32
London—Administrative County	20.1	0.39	11.6	0.00	0.63	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.54	2.4	31
Reigate	15.6	0.43	*10.8	0.00	0.33	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.38	0.0	28

*Not Corrected.

Population.

The civilian population resident in the Borough at mid-year 1948, as estimated by the Registrar-General, was 41,770. This represents an increase of 1,290 on the corresponding figure for 1947 and approximates to that supplied by the local Registration Officer. The various rates for the year, which are calculated on the Registrar-General's estimate, may therefore be accepted as an accurate representation of the morbidity and mortality actually experienced in the area.

Population increment is attributable partly to natural increase, or excess of live births over deaths, and partly to migration. The natural increase in the year was 199, as compared with 261 in 1947, 259 in 1946 and 72 in 1945.

Births.

Six hundred and fifty-two live infants were born to women normally resident in the Borough. The birth rate for the year was, therefore, 15.6 per thousand of the estimated civilian population, as compared with 19.6 in 1947, 18.9 in 1946, 15.5 in 1945 and an average rate of 14.0 for the ten years 1935 to 1944. The decline in the birth rate was not accompanied by a corresponding reduction in the still-birth and infant mortality rates for the year.

Deaths.

The deaths assigned to the area include those of Borough residents who died elsewhere, but exclude those of temporary residents, which are transferred to other districts, and of non-civilians. The total number of deaths so assigned was 453, of which 198 were of males and 255 of females.

The numbers of deaths of each sex in various age groups were as follows :—

<i>Age group.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
0-5 years ..	12	16	28
5-10 „ ..	2	2	4
10-15 „ ..	—	2	2
15-20 „ ..	—	3	3
20-30 „ ..	3	3	6
30-40 „ ..	1	4	5
40-50 „ ..	9	10	19
50-60 „ ..	32	18	50
60-70 „ ..	35	37	72
70-80 „ ..	59	78	137
80-90 „ ..	40	66	106
90 and upwards	5	16	21
	<hr/> 198	<hr/> 255	<hr/> 453
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The total number of deaths is very much smaller than in recent years. The reduction, though shared almost equally by the sexes, was confined to persons over the age of sixty years, with relatively higher mortality in childhood and adolescence. This would not appear to have any special significance, as wide fluctuation is often observed when dealing with a small series.

The "crude" or unadjusted death-rate for the year was 10.8 per thousand of the estimated resident population, as compared with 13.1 in 1947, 12.4 in 1946, 13.5 in 1945 and an average annual rate of 12.6 for the preceding ten years.

The "crude" rate is not a valid measure for comparison with the death-rate for England and Wales or for any local area, until corrected or "adjusted" to make allowance for the adverse influence of unfavourable age and sex distribution on the mortality experienced in the area. The "adjusted" death-rate for the Borough would be approximately 8.6, which compares favourably with the rate for England and Wales and with the similarly adjusted rate for towns with a resident population of 25,000 to 50,000.

The numbers of deaths assigned to specified causes are set out in Table III; and do not indicate unusual or excessive mortality from any particular cause or significant association with any special conditions of environment or occupation. The proportion of deaths attributed to diseases of the heart and circulatory system (including affections of the blood vessels of the brain) and to cancer and malignant disease are roughly similar to those usually observed. Deaths from influenza, acute respiratory infections and violence made less than their usual contribution to the death rate, while the mortality ascribed to specific infectious diseases and maternal causes was exceptionally low. For the seventh consecutive year, no death from diphtheria was assigned to the area.

TABLE III.

Causes of Death in the Borough of Reigate during 1948.

				M.	F.	TOTAL.
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	..	..	..	..	..
2	Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..
3	Scarlet fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
4	Whooping cough .. ..	..	..	1	..	1
5	Diphtheria .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	..	7	3	10
7	Other forms of tuberculosis ..	..	..	2	2	4
8	Syphilitic diseases .. ..	..	..	1	..	1
9	Influenza .. ..	..	..	..	1	1
10	Measles .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
11	Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	..	..	..	..	..
12	Acute infective encephalitis ..	..	..	..	..	..
13	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus..	..	..	4	..	4
13a	Cancer of uterus .. ..	..	..	..	6	6
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum ..	..	..	10	2	12
15	Cancer of breast .. ..	..	..	..	8	8
16	Cancer of all other sites .. ..	..	..	20	23	43
17	Diabetes .. ..	..	..	1	3	4
18	Intracranial vascular lesions ..	..	..	17	38	55
19	Heart disease .. ..	..	..	65	63	128
20	Other diseases of circulatory system	..	..	6	10	16
21	Bronchitis .. ..	..	..	11	7	18
22	Pneumonia .. ..	..	..	7	9	16
23	Other respiratory diseases ..	..	..	..	4	4
24	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	..	..	6	..	6
25	Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ..	..	..	..	..	..
26	Appendicitis .. ..	..	..	1	1	2
27	Other digestive diseases .. ..	..	..	1	7	8
28	Nephritis .. ..	..	..	4	6	10
29	Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	..	..	..	..	..
30	Other maternal causes .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
31	Premature birth .. ..	..	..	3	2	5
32	Congenital malformation, birth injury and infantile diseases .. ..	..	..	4	5	9
33	Suicide .. ..	..	..	2	3	5
34	Road traffic accidents .. ..	..	..	1	1	2
35	Other violent causes .. ..	..	..	3	10	13
36	All other causes .. ..	..	..	21	41	62
TOTALS				198	255	453

SECTION II.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Staff.

Full particulars of the Public Health Officers of the Borough Council are given in the list incorporated at the beginning of this report, including in each case information as to their special diplomas and certificates of qualification.

Mr. M. H. Stockley was appointed as an additional Sanitary Inspector, thus completing the approved establishment of the inspectorial staff.

Mr. A. J. Stewart retired, on superannuation, from the post of assistant Sanitary Inspector, which he had occupied for upwards of forty years; the Borough Council recorded their appreciation of the loyal service he had given during that period.

The post of assistant Rat Officer, occupied by Mr. Kempshall, was re-designated "Pests Officer," and Mr. E. E. Arnould was appointed Rodent Operator to assist in the general rodent control work in the Borough and in the additional duties arising from the agreement reached with the Surrey County Council for the utilisation of the Borough staff in connection with pest and rodent control at County Institutions, schools and canteens in the area.

Mr. R. Marsdin was appointed temporary junior clerk, in place of Mr. T. P. Jarrett, who is serving with H.M. Forces.

The officers employed in the Borough Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Department, most of whom were also engaged on school medical duties, were transferred to the service of the Surrey County Council on 5th July, on the coming into force of the National Health Service Act.

Laboratory Facilities.

Samples of milk or foods for biological and bacteriological examinations are sent to the Clinical Research Association, Limited, in London.

Samples of potable water are sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

Samples of food and drugs for chemical examinations are sent to Mr. D. D. Moir, M.Sc., F.I.C., Public Analyst.

The examination of clinical material (sputum, blood, faeces, etc.) submitted by medical practitioners is undertaken at the Pathological Department of the East Surrey Hospital, as in the past; since 5th July, however, the cost of such examinations is borne by the Regional Hospital Board. Specimens may also be sent to the Public Health Laboratory, whose resources are available, if required, for special investigations.

Nursing in the Home.

The arrangements made by the Borough Council for the home nursing of selected cases of pneumonia and of certain acute infectious ailments in young children continued in force until the "appointed day." Thereafter, the home nursing service was administered by the County Nursing Association, through its affiliated organisations. The scope and quality of the service provided were not greatly affected by the change in the system of administration, the activities of the home nursing service being still seriously restricted by the acute shortage of trained nursing staff.

Ambulance Service.

The ambulance service for cases of infectious disease, illness and accident has been described in previous reports and operated as usual in the first part of the year. On being transferred to the County Council under the National Health Service Act, the service was placed under central control and was re-organised and extended to meet the additional requirements imposed by the Act. The provision now made in the Borough, and which can readily be augmented from neighbouring areas should the need arise, is as follows :—

(a) A Main Station at the Redhill County Hospital—for general service, and comprising three ambulance vehicles and one car for sitting cases, with the necessary operational staff.

(b) A Sub-Station at Albert Road, Reigate—for emergency and supplementary general service, and comprising four ambulance vehicles and two cars for sitting cases operated by the St. John Ambulance Brigade on an agency basis.

(c) One ambulance vehicle stationed at the Reigate Joint Isolation Hospital, and used mainly for the conveyance of infectious cases.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The clinic services available locally include those established for school medical and maternity and child welfare purposes, which are now under the control of the Surrey County Council, and the Chest and Venereal Diseases Clinics and the Out-patient Departments, with consultant facilities, at the local general hospitals, which are now administered by the Regional Hospital Board. Important extensions during the year include the building of a new Infant Welfare Centre at Earlswood, the establishment of a Dental Clinic at the South Park Health Centre, improved treatment facilities at Merstham and the increase and re-organisation of clinic sessions in response to normal development.

Hospitals : Public and Voluntary.

The nature and scope of the services provided at the hospitals in the area are substantially the same as those described in recent reports. From the "appointed day," the Redhill County Hospital, the Reigate Joint Isolation Hospital and the East Surrey Hospital, with its private ward annexes at Thornton House and Casterbridge, were administered by the Regional Hospital Board, and improved arrangements were made for the provision of convalescent treatment for patients requiring it.

Institutional provision for mothers and children.

The Borough Council did not provide special institutional accommodation for mothers and children coming within the scope of their maternity and child welfare scheme, as the relatively small numbers to be dealt with did not justify elaborate provision of that nature. Arrangements were made, where necessary, for the admission of eligible cases to institutions provided and maintained by other bodies, the Council contributing to the cost according to the financial circumstances of the patient.

The arrangements made by the Surrey County Council in the discharge of the duties placed upon them by the National Health Service Act are on similar lines, except that the cost of maintenance is, in most cases, covered by a block grant to the Moral Welfare Associations in the County, or by the free treatment facilities available at State Hospitals.

Health Visiting.

Five health visitors were formerly employed by the Borough Council in connection with their school medical and maternity

and child welfare services. When the former came under the control of the Surrey County Council, under the Education Act, 1944, the services of the health visitors, to the extent previously allocated to school medical duties, were made available to the local Divisional Executive. Maternity and child welfare functions became the responsibility of the County Council on 5th July, and on that date the health visitors became whole-time officers of the Surrey County Council.

Supply of Insulin.

Arrangements were made by the Borough Council for the supply of insulin, free of cost or at a reduced price, to diabetic persons for whom provision had not already been made under the National Health Insurance and Poor Law Acts. One person was assisted under these arrangements prior to 5th July, when insulin became available, free of charge, on the prescription of any medical practitioner engaged in the National Health Service.

SECTION III.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

There was no important extension of the public water supply during the year.

With the exception of fourteen houses which depend for their water supply on two private wells, all dwellings in the Borough have a continuous and direct supply from the East Surrey Water Company. The water is derived from deep borings in the chalk and is softened, chlorinated and de-chlorinated before distribution to consumers.

The supply was adequate in quantity throughout the year, the average daily consumption per head of population being about 30 gallons. The quality of the water, as revealed by chemical and bacteriological examination at regular intervals, was invariably reported to be satisfactory.

Samples of the water before and after treatment are submitted monthly for bacteriological examination, under private arrangements made by the East Surrey Water Company. In addition, samples of the treated water are examined chemically and bacteriologically about 40 times a year, under a rota system arranged by the Medical Officers of Health of the districts supplied by the Company ; samples are taken in each district at stated times, and the analyst's reports are available for the use of the other districts concerned. The following report is typical of those received during the year :—

Chemical Results in Parts per Million.

Appearance	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bright
Colour	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Odour	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Reaction pH	..	..	..	..				Alkaline : 8.9
Free carbonic acid	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Absent
Electric conductivity at 20 deg. C.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	250
Total solids, dried at 180 deg. C.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	170
Chlorine in Chlorides	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Alkalinity as calcium carbonate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Hardness : Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	90
Temporary		..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Permanent		..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Nitrogen in nitrates	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.2
Nitrogen in nitrites	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.01
Free ammonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.076
Albuminoid ammonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.000
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27 deg. C.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.25
Metals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Absent
" Free chlorine reaction "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.12

Bacteriological Results.

	1 day at 37 deg. C.	2 days at 37 deg. C.	3 days at 20 deg.
Number of " Colonies " growing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in	.. 0	.. 1	.. 0
Presumptive coliform reaction	.. ..	.. Absent	100 c.c.
Bact. coli	.. ..	.. Absent	100 c.c.
Cl. welchi reaction	.. ..	.. Absent	100 c.c.

Report.

“ This sample is clear and bright in appearance, faintly alkaline in reaction and free from metals. The water is fairly soft in character and has a very moderate content of mineral and saline constituents in solution. It conforms to the highest standards of organic quality and bacterial purity. The water is considered wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.”

Drainage and Sewerage.

Important developments of the drainage and sewerage systems of the area included the following :—

1. Extensions of the foul sewer at Holmethorpe and Park Lane ;
2. Extension of the surface water sewer in Hitchings Way, Reigate ;
3. Provision of a small link sewer to relieve the existing sewer in Garlands Road, Redhill ; and
4. The laying of foul and surface water sewers on the Wood-hatch Housing Estate.

Rivers and Streams.

The streams and surface water courses in the area are regularly inspected, and all necessary action is taken to render them free from obstruction and pollution. An additional length of twenty-five yards of the stream at the rear of Bell Street, Reigate, was piped-in with 36 inch diameter pipes.

Closet Accommodation.

There is nothing of special importance to report under this heading.

Public Cleansing.

A weekly collection of house and trade refuse is in operation in all parts of the Borough. More frequent collections are made of trade refuse having a high content of putrescible matter. Refuse with no salvage value is disposed of by incineration.

The conditions of storage of house and trade refuse are generally satisfactory, and have been greatly improved by the replacement of receptacles found to be dilapidated or defective.

With a view to preventing serious nuisance from flies, communal street bins for the collection of kitchen waste were emptied thrice weekly during the summer months, and were withdrawn and thoroughly cleansed at intervals of seven to ten days. These measures had the desired result.

Arrangements have been made for the salvage of waste paper, scrap metal, bottles, etc., and for the processing for animal feeding of waste food collected in the Borough and in neighbouring Sanitary Districts.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action and result of action taken in regard to these will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Shops.

Inspections for the purposes of the Shops Act, 1934, continue to be made as and when necessary.

Camping Sites.

A plot of land in Horley Road, Redhill, which was licensed in 1947 as a site for not more than eight trailer caravans, continued in use during 1948. The site was vacated at the end of the year, and it is understood that the owner does not intend to apply for the renewal of his licence.

Eight licences were granted under Sub-section (I) (ii) in respect of trailer caravans occupied by families who were without proper housing accommodation.

Smoke Abatement.

No complaint of smoke nuisance was received during the year.

At the request of the National Smoke Abatement Society, a local survey was made to obtain information with regard to local air pollution and the types of boiler installations in use in the district. This information was required by the Society for the purposes of a National Survey of the sources and incidence of atmospheric pollution.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

Three swimming baths in the area are open to the public. Two are covered baths owned and controlled by the Corporation ; the third is a privately owned open-air pool to which the public are admitted on payment. All three baths are equipped with the necessary plant for filtration and chlorination.

The open-air pool was very little used, owing to the unfavourable weather conditions, and it was not thought necessary to take samples of the water for chemical and bacteriological examination. A sample taken from the Reigate Bath at the height of the bathing season was reported to reach a high standard of organic quality and bacterial purity, and to be in all respects suitable for swimming bath purposes.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

The disinfestation of verminous premises was carried out by the Disinfecting Officer, under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. Particulars of Council and other houses found to be infested and dealt with during the year are set out in a later section of this report.

Factories Act, 1937.

In accordance with Section 128 of the above-named Act, the Table given below indicates the work which has been carried out during 1948.

(1) Inspections.

<i>Premises.</i>	<i>Number on Register.</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections.</i>	<i>Written Notices.</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted.</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	46	10	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	111	60	—	—
(iii) Others	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	157	70	—	—

(2) Cases in which Defects were found.

<i>Particulars.</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found.</i>				<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.</i>
	<i>Found.</i>	<i>Remedied.</i>	<i>Referred to H.M. Inspector.</i>	<i>Referred by H.M. Inspector.</i>	
Want of cleanliness	4	3	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) insufficient ..	1	1	—	1	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ..	4	2	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	6	5	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	15	11	—	1	—

(3) Out Work (Sections 110 and 111).

No lists of outworkers were received from employers. Five lists were received from other Authorities, affecting four persons, whose premises were visited. No action was necessary.

SECTION IV.

HOUSING.

The statistical particulars relating to housing in the area are set out below.

For the reasons explained in recent reports, it has not been practicable to resume the systematic inspection of houses under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, but a considerable number of dwellings were visited and inspected in connection with infectious disease, applications to the Council for housing accommodation and for building repair licences, and on complaint by tenants. Although it was possible to secure, by informal action, the repair of the majority of the houses found to be defective, the number forming the subject of statutory notices tends to increase.

The number of dwelling houses inspected during the year was 236, in addition to 202 others which were inspected on application by the owners for licences to carry out essential repairs.

Informal notices were served on the owners of 166 houses which were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ; 235 defective dwelling houses in this category were rendered fit before the end of the year in consequence of informal action.

Four dwelling houses were the subject of notices served under the repairs Section of the Housing Act, 1936. Notice of intention to enter for the purpose of doing the work was served in one case, following non-compliance with the notice. The work was carried out by the Corporation at a cost of £59, which was recovered from the owner.

Twenty-one new cases of statutory overcrowding were discovered during the year, in addition to the twenty-four cases shown to exist at the end of 1947. Twenty-two cases were relieved by re-housing the affected families in requisitioned property, in temporary pre-fabricated bungalows or in permanent Corporation houses.

The numbers of houses completed during the year are as follows :—

(a) Council Houses	..	..	..	114 Houses
				12 Flats
(b) Private—including War Damaged ' Cost				
of Works ' re-building	..	..	..	53 Houses

The Council's Valuation and Housing Officer states that during 1948, 111 families were re-housed in permanent Council houses. In addition, 39 families were transferred to permanent houses from temporary accommodation controlled by the Council. Fourteen families were re-housed in pre-fabricated temporary bungalows and 35 families in requisitioned properties. In view of the large number of families with one child which the Housing Committee agreed to re-house, and the reluctance of the Committee to accommodate such families in three-bedroom houses, it became necessary to adopt a policy of " transfers " in order to make the best use of available accommodation and to be able to place the one-child families in a suitable dwelling ; 81 such transfers were effected during the year.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	(a)	236
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	(b)	1,667
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	(a)	28
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	(b)	80
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		Nil
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..		166

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers		235
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs		4
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
(a)	By owners		9
(b)	By local authority in default of owners ..		1

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied		11
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners		11
(b) By local authority in default of owners ..		1
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made		Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders		Nil
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made		Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit		Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	23
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	34
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	187
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	21
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	22
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	80
(d) Number of dwelling-houses which again became overcrowded after the local authority had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

SECTION V.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Particulars of the numbers of persons registered as cow-keepers, dairymen and retail purveyors of milk, and of alterations made in the Register during the year, are set out in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

A relatively small proportion of the milk consumed in the Borough is actually produced locally. The greater part of the supply is brought in already pasteurised and bottled at a licensed dairy in Croydon, or is delivered to a local dairy with licensed pasteurising apparatus from the numerous dairy farms in the surrounding rural districts. Very little milk, even Tuberculin-tested milk, is untreated by heat before it is sold to the consumer.

Tuberculin-tested milk is produced at four farms in the Borough and Accredited milk at ten. One new licence to produce Tuberculin-tested milk was granted by the County Council to a small producer occupying newly-registered premises; one cow-keeper, who held a Tuberculin-tested licence, vacated his registered premises, which thereafter ceased to be used for milk production. Five producers have not applied to use a Special Designation, as they are unwilling to incur the expenditure that would be necessary to bring their premises up to the required standard.

The routine sampling of milk supplies was continued in accordance with recent practice, with the results indicated in Table IV. The attention of the County Licensing Authority was drawn to the unsatisfactory bacterial quality of two samples of Tuberculin-tested raw milk, in order that appropriate action might be taken. It will be noted that all samples of pasteurised milk reached the required standard. For three consecutive years all samples of untreated milk submitted to biological examination have given negative results: of 65 samples examined in 1948, however, one was found to contain tubercle bacilli. The facts were made known to the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who later reported that the infected cow had been traced and slaughtered.

TABLE IV.

RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

1. TESTS REQUIRED BY MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1936 TO 1946.

No. of Samples	Methylene Blue		Coliform		Phosphatase.		
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Group I	Group II	Group III
Tuberculin Tested : 9	7	2	7	2	—	—	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) : 16	16	—	—	—	16	—	—
Pasteurised : 30	30	—	—	—	30	—	—

2. BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

No. of Samples.	Tubercle Bacilli +	% Tubercle Bacilli +
65	1	1.54

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 to 1946.

Licences, as under, for the sale of designated milk were granted to six retailers in the area :—

Tuberculin Tested	4
Tuberculin Tested—bottling licence	2
„ „ —(Supplementary)	3
Pasteuriser's licence	2
Pasteurised (Supplementary)	2

Meat and Other Foods.

The action taken under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is described in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, which also includes an account of unsound food destroyed and particulars of inspections of premises where food is prepared.

Adulteration, etc.

No special action was necessary under Sections 27 to 29 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, relating to Artificial Cream, nor under the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923, 1927 and 1943, and the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923, 1927 and 1943.

All articles submitted to the Public Analyst were examined for the presence of preservatives in accordance with the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940, but no infringement of the Regulations was reported.

Although many Orders have now been made under the Defence (Sale of Food) Regulations, 1943, relating to Food Standards and Labelling, no infringement was noted during 1948. The action taken under the part of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, dealing with the composition of food and drugs, is described in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

Samples for chemical analysis are sent to the Council's Analyst, Mr. D. D. Moir, M.Sc., F.I.C., and samples of milk and ice-cream for bacteriological examination to the Clinical Research Association, Limited. Bacteriological examination of other kinds of food was not called for during the year.

Twenty-five samples of ice-cream from eleven retailers were examined for bacterial quality, by submission to the methylene blue reduction test. Nine of the samples were of local manufacture and, of these, seven were placed in Provisional Grades I and II, and one in Provisional Grade III; the methylene blue test could not be applied to one sample, owing to the presence of extraneous colouring matter, which invalidated the test. Of the sixteen samples of ice-cream manufactured elsewhere, nine were in Grades I and II, six in Grade III and one in Grade IV. These results are generally satisfactory, and indicate that reasonable precautions have been taken to prevent contamination, more particularly in the case of ice-cream manufactured locally.

The effect of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947, and the adoption by the Council of a standard of hygiene relating to manufacturers' and retailers' premises, has been to limit manufacture in this Borough to two premises only, the

majority of retailers purchasing ice-cream from registered wholesalers in the London area and in Brighton.

Shellfish (Molluscan).

There are no shellfish beds or layings in the district. The shellfish on sale locally are obtained from the London Markets, so that no information is available as to the layings from which the shellfish are derived.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934, nor under Section 39 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

SECTION VI.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Provision of Isolation Hospital Accommodation.

The accommodation available at the Reigate Joint Hospital for the isolation and treatment of cases of infectious illness was sufficient to meet the demands made upon it in the first part of the year, and it was not necessary, therefore, to operate the scheme for mutual assistance already agreed with neighbouring isolation hospital authorities.

With the coming into force of the National Health Service Act, the Reigate Joint Hospital came under the control of the Regional Hospital Board and was administered with others in the Region by the Redhill Group Hospital Management Committee. Under the new system of administration there was occasionally delay in securing the admission of infectious cases to hospital, and cases occurring in the Borough were not infrequently sent elsewhere. It is probable that difficulties in these respects will be overcome when the new system is fully in operation. From the purely public health point of view, however, it is to be regretted that District Medical Officers of Health have been largely deprived of the powers they formerly exercised in relation to the hospitalisation of cases of infectious disease.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

The action taken on receipt of a notification that a person is suffering from an infectious disease is fully described in previous reports.

The exclusion from school of infected persons and contacts is carried out in accordance with the suggestions contained in the joint Memorandum issued in 1927 by the Ministry of Health and Board of Education, and amended in August, 1942.

Table V shows the number of the various notifiable infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis) recorded in the area during the calendar year, classified according to the age of the patient, together with the numbers of cases removed to hospital, and the total deaths from each disease. Comparative statistics are given in Table VI. The prevalence of the various diseases is reviewed below.

Small-pox.

No case of small-pox was notified in the Borough during the year. Reports were received of the arrival in the Borough of several persons who had recently been in contact with definite or suspected cases of small-pox, either in this country or abroad, or had visited localities where the disease was known to be prevalent. All were visited and kept under surveillance for the prescribed period.

Scarlet Fever.

There were twenty-six notifications of scarlet fever, as compared with an average of forty-seven per annum in the preceding ten years. Twenty-three cases were admitted to hospital, in addition to two others which had not been officially notified.

The cases were widely distributed as regards season and locality, and in few could definite connection be traced. In four instances, however, multiple cases occurred in the same households and were traced to previously undetected carriers, and in at least three others there was evidence that the infection had been contracted from convalescent patients soon after their discharge from the isolation hospital. Contacts who were engaged in the production and handling of milk and other food were suspended from work until shown bacteriologically to be free from infection. Children released

TABLE V.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1948.

Disease	Cases notified in Age Periods															Totals	Total cases removed to hospital	Total Deaths.
	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over						
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	3	3	5	10	1	—	3	1	—	—	26	23	—			
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—			
Puerperal Pyrexia..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	6	5	—			
Pneumonia ..	—	1	2	3	—	4	1	—	2	3	6	8	30	8	16*			
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—			
Whooping Cough ..	24	45	51	47	49	107	9	1	3	1	—	1	338	12	1			
Measles ..	25	63	91	77	76	341	11	8	9	3	—	—	704	13	—			
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	3	10	—	—			
Totals ..	49	109	147	131	130	462	22	9	24	10	11	12	1116	61	22			
TOTALS 1947 ..	10	14	18	23	24	75	20	10	26	12	12	14	258	42	22			

*All forms.

TABLE VI.
CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1948.

	RATES PER 1,000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.									RATES PER 1000 TOTAL (i.e. Live and Still) BIRTHS.
	Typhoid Fever.	Para- typhoid Fever.	Cerebro- Spinal Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Whoop- ing Cough.	Diph- theria.	Ery- sipelas.	Measles.	Pneu- monia.	
England and Wales	0.01	0.01	0.03	1.73	3.43	0.08	0.21	9.34	0.73	6.89
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	0.00	0.01	0.03	1.90	3.51	0.10	0.23	9.75	0.34	8.90
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census)	0.01	0.01	0.02	1.82	3.31	0.09	0.21	8.84	0.60	4.71
London Administrative County	0.00	0.01	0.03	1.37	3.13	0.10	0.22	9.17	0.57	7.34
Reigate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.62	8.09	0.00	0.23	16.85	0.71	8.95

from isolation were medically examined at the Clinic before being allowed to return to school.

Diphtheria.

For the first time on record, no case of diphtheria was reported in the Borough.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin.

For many years the Borough Council have provided anti-diphtheritic serum, free of charge, with a view to ensuring its early administration to definite or suspected cases of diphtheria. The arrangements made for this purpose operated very satisfactorily, but the service has been seldom used in recent years because of the steadily declining incidence of diphtheria.

The supply of anti-diphtheritic serum is now included in the hospital services of the district.

Schick Testing and Artificial Immunisation against Diphtheria.

In the course of routine domiciliary visiting and at infant welfare clinics, the Health Visitors have intensified their efforts to encourage acceptance of immunisation. Special following-up visits are made to infants who have not been immunised soon after their first birthday or who, having attended on one occasion, fail to keep subsequent appointments. Immunisation against diphtheria, or consent thereto, has been made a condition of admission of children to the Council's Day Nursery.

The numbers of children who completed a full course of immunisation during the year are as follows :—

<i>Age at 31-12-1948.</i>			<i>Numbers immunised.</i>
Under 1 year	..	..	18
1 to 2 years	..	..	380
2 „ 3 „	..	..	103
3 „ 4 „	..	..	26
4 „ 5 „	..	..	12
5 „ 9 „	..	..	65
10 „ 14 „	..	..	20
Total ..			624

Reinforcing doses of diphtheria prophylactic were given to 182 persons, mostly school entrants who had completed a course of immunisation three or four years previously.

It is estimated that at least 60.0 per cent. of children under the age of five years, and 70.0 per cent. of those between the ages of five and fifteen years, have been artificially immunised against diphtheria. As protection is not usually advised until the end of the first year, the former proportion is equivalent to approximately 75.0 per cent. of those eligible for treatment, and may be regarded as very satisfactory.

Dysentery.

One notification of dysentery was received. This related to a young child who had become infected in another district. Appropriate precautions were taken, and no further cases occurred.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Six women were reported to have sustained or repeated rise of temperature following confinement. Five had been confined in hospital and one in a private nursing home; all recovered satisfactorily.

Only three of the notifications related to Borough residents.

Pneumonia.

The prevalence of pneumonia was appreciably below the average and was practically confined to the early months of the year. Thirty cases were reported, of which eight were already in hospital at the time of notification or were subsequently removed to hospital for the purpose of treatment. At least three of the notifications were post-humous.

The cases treated at home were visited by the health visitors, who reported that adequate facilities for isolation and treatment were available in every instance and that no case was urgently in need of trained nursing assistance.

The deaths ascribed to pneumonia include several due to non-notifiable forms of the disease, e.g., hypostatic pneumonia occurring as a terminal condition in elderly persons. Mortality amongst the notifiable cases was remarkably low, and is not truly represented by the ratio of deaths to notifications.

Acute Polio-myelitis.

Two suspected cases of acute anterior polio-myelitis (infantile paralysis) were admitted to the isolation hospital for observation, but were later reported not to be suffering from that disease.

Malaria.

Infection with the malarial parasite was reported in a man several months after his return from service in the Far East. He had not suffered from the disease while he was abroad, and the clinical history and the results of blood examination pointed definitely to primary malaria, presumably contracted in this country. This is of interest, as malarial-carrying species of mosquitoes are not usually found in this district.

Whooping Cough.

This was the most troublesome and persistent of the acute infectious diseases encountered during the year. An outbreak, starting in January, reached maximum prevalence in the early summer and had not entirely subsided by the end of December, when sporadic cases were still being reported. The total number of notifications, though very much above the average, was not excessive in view of the low incidence of the disease in the Borough during the last few years and, in consequence, the large section of the child population susceptible to attack.

Twelve patients were admitted to hospital, as they could not be satisfactorily isolated and cared for in their own homes. The remainder were followed-up by the health visitors to ensure that a reasonable standard of isolation was being observed and to arrange for the supply of trained nursing assistance, where it appeared to be necessary. There was one death from whooping-cough; this was of a young child who was treated in the Ottershaw Isolation Hospital and in whom the disease was complicated by encephalitis.

Measles.

Following the usual cycle, measles assumed almost epidemic prevalence, particularly in the spring and early summer, when notifications of whooping-cough also were most numerous. Children under the age of ten years were chiefly affected, though the concentration of cases in individual schools was not in any instance sufficient to justify closure of a school or department.

Thirteen patients were removed to hospital, mainly from Children's Homes and other institutions in which they could not be isolated satisfactorily. The remainder were kept under the supervision of the health visitors.

Measles serum was not extensively used for the prevention or attenuation of measles, and was supplied on only four occasions for the total or partial immunisation of susceptible contacts. The Borough Council made a grant of two guineas toward the cost of serum prepared for a measles patient under private arrangements.

Erysipelas.

Notifications of this disease, of which there were ten, did not indicate any significant increase in prevalence. None of the cases was so severe as to require specialised treatment in hospital. No mortality was ascribed to erysipelas.

Food Poisoning.

There were no reports of illness in the area that could be attributed to the ingestion of impure or unsound food.

Tuberculosis.

Twenty-five new cases of tuberculosis of the lungs, and nineteen of tuberculosis of other organs, were reported during the year. Thirty-four were cases notified for the first time, seven were reported by the County Medical Officer on transference from other areas in which they had already been notified, and three became known through the Registrar's Return of Deaths.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis which came to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year are set out in Table VII, together with an analysis of the deaths in the area from this disease during the same period.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis of the lungs, including cases coming into the area after notification elsewhere, is equivalent to a case rate of 0.59 per thousand of the population. This is by far the lowest rate recorded since the outbreak of war, and is the third lowest observed since the disease became compulsorily notifiable in 1912. The reduction in incidence is mainly attributable to decline in prevalence amongst males over the age of thirty-five years, a trend that has been apparent in recent years.

New Cases of Tuberculosis, and all Deaths from the Disease in the Area during 1948, classified according to Age, Sex and Type of Disease.

Age Periods		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year
1-5 years
5-15 "
15-25 "
25-35 "
35-45 "
45-55 "
55-65 "
65 & upwards
TOTALS
TOTALS (1947)

The case rate for non-respiratory forms of tuberculosis, on the other hand, has not exhibited any sustained tendency to decline over a long period of years. The rate for 1948 was precisely the same as in 1912, namely 0.45 per thousand, as compared with 0.17 in 1947, 0.27 in 1946 and an average rate of 0.30 in the preceding ten years. Persons in the younger age groups were, as usual, chiefly affected, and in several instances the infection was, in all probability, derived from bovine sources through the medium of raw milk. Such cases are likely to be of less frequent occurrence with increase in the practice of pasteurisation of milk supplies.

The mortality rates for tuberculosis followed the same general trend as incidence rates, being appreciably below the average for infections of the lungs and higher for tuberculosis of other organs. In the latter group, tuberculous meningitis was a not uncommon cause of death.

A register is kept of the names, addresses and other particulars relating to known cases of tuberculosis. At the end of the year there remained on the Register the names of 212 persons, of whom 154 (79 males, 75 females), were suffering from respiratory tuberculosis, and 58 (28 males, 30 females), from tuberculosis of other organs.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

The voluntary Tuberculosis Care Committee, which works in close association with local Chest Clinics and Sanatoria, continued its activities on behalf of tuberculous persons and their dependants. The assistance granted during the year included the supply of extra nourishment, fuel, bedding, clothing, sick-room requisites, etc., and the payment of fares, pocket money and other incidental expenses which could not be met from official sources.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Influenza.

Information relating to the prevalence of influenza is obtained mainly from school records and from the local Registrar's weekly returns of deaths. From the former it would appear that com-

paratively little absence from school was attributable to influenza, while the mortality ascribed to this cause was unusually low. Emergency arrangements were made through local voluntary agencies for assisting stricken households in the event of epidemic prevalence.

Other Infectious Diseases.

Very few cases of other infectious and contagious diseases were reported during the year. Isolation in hospital was provided for four cases of mumps, three of Vincent's angina, three of acute tonsillitis, two of impetigo and one of meningitis. Most of these cases were removed from general hospitals and residential institutions where the facilities for isolation were inadequate.

Disinfection.

There are facilities at the Disinfecting Station for the sterilisation of articles that have been exposed to infection, and for the cleansing of verminous persons and their belongings. Provision has been made for the treatment by formalin vapour of books and other articles which are unsuitable for disinfection by superheated steam. The work undertaken at the Disinfecting Station during the year is summarised in a later section of this report.

Bacteriological Work.

The bacteriological examination of specimens submitted by medical practitioners from suspected cases of infectious disease is undertaken by the Pathologist at the East Surrey Hospital. Specimens may also be sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratories established by the Medical Research Council.

Up to 5th July, copies of the reports on all specimens examined were sent to the Public Health Department, and were as follows :—

A. SWABS EXAMINED FOR THE PRESENCE OF :—

(a) *Diphtheria bacillus* :—

(i) Swabs from throat :—

	Result		Total
	Positive	Negative	
From suspected cases of diphtheria	—	44	44
From contacts of diphtheria ..	—	4	4

(ii) Swabs from nose :—

From suspected cases of diphtheria	—	10	10
From contacts of diphtheria ..	—	4	4

(b) <i>Other Pathogenic Organisms</i> :—			Result		Total
			Positive	Negative	
(i) Swabs from throat	..	..	16	47	63
(ii) Swabs from nose	..	..	2	11	13
(iii) Swab from vagina	..	..	—	1	1
(iv) Swab from eye	..	..	—	2	2

B. SPUTUM EXAMINED FOR THE PRESENCE OF :—

The Tubercle Bacillus :—

(i) From suspected cases	1	7	8
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C. FÆCES EXAMINED FOR THE PRESENCE OF :—

(a) B. Dysenteriae (Sonne)	—	1	1
(b) B. Paratyphosus	—	2	2

D. BLOOD EXAMINED FOR :—

(a) Widal Reaction	—	2	2
--------------------	----	----	----	---	---	---

E. Urine examined for :—

B. Paratyphosus	—	2	2
-----------------	----	----	----	---	---	---

UNCLEANLINESS.

Pediculosis.

The measures adopted locally to combat infestation by lice have been fully described in previous reports and were consistently maintained throughout the year. The information from several sources indicates that the general standard of cleanliness is satisfactory. Not a single instance of verminous infestation was recorded in an infant under school age, while rather less than 2.0 per cent. of school children were found to be suffering from pediculosis. The infestation of the latter was confined to the scalp and, in most instances, was of mild degree, only twenty-three cases being so pronounced as to require exclusion from school. Two infested school children were cleansed under the arrangements made by the Education Authority.

No case of verminous infestation of an adult was reported to the Public Health Department. The only case of this nature dealt with during the year was a man from a neighbouring district, who was heavily infested with body lice and who was cleansed at the Corporation Disinfecting Station, at the request of the Medical Officer of Health of the district concerned.

Scabies.

The prevalence of scabies has declined very rapidly from the high levels reached during the war. The total number of cases reported in 1948 was 28, as compared with 141 in 1947, 295 in 1946 and 396 in 1945. Five cases were referred to the Redhill County Hospital, and the remaining twenty-three were successfully treated under the arrangements made by the Borough Council.

The accommodation reserved at the Public Baths in Redhill for the cleansing of scabies was invaluable in dealing with the war-time increase in prevalence, but was released for its normal uses during the year, as the number of cases referred for treatment did not justify its retention.

SECTION VII.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICE.

The arrangements in force locally for the care and supervision of expectant and nursing mothers and young children are substantially the same as those described in recent reports. Important developments during the year include the erection of a clinic building in Earlswood and the alteration and extension of the Day Nursery to provide additional places.

The various services established for mothers and young children were administered by the Borough Council until 5th July, and thereafter by the Surrey County Council as Local Health Authority. Under the County Council's scheme of divisional administration the Borough of Reigate forms part of the Southern Division of Surrey, which also includes the Urban District of Dorking, the Rural District of Dorking and Horley and the Rural District of Godstone. Most of the functions of the Local Health Authority in relation to maternity and child welfare have been delegated to Divisional Sub-committees, composed of representatives of the County Council and of the Sanitary Districts comprising the Division.

The change in the system of administration did not greatly affect the operation of the services available in the Borough. The provision of consultant aid and hospital accommodation for

complicated maternity cases ceased to be a function of the Welfare Authority and became the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board. The supply of nursing assistance, which had formerly been arranged through the local District Nursing Association, was undertaken by the County Nursing Association and its affiliated organisations. Certain services, such as dental treatment, examination by an obstetric consultant and accommodation in hospital, for which applicants had in the past been required to pay according to their means, became available free of charge under the National Health Service Act.

The figures in the Tables that follow should, strictly speaking, relate only to the first half of the year, when the Borough Council was an autonomous authority for maternity and child welfare. This would preclude valid comparison with the corresponding returns for preceding years and it was thought preferable, therefore, to give the figures for the complete year, wherever it has been possible to do so.

The following is a brief summary of the work of various services :

TABLE VIII.

PARTICULARS OF ATTENDANCES AT ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS DURING THE YEAR 1948.

			<i>Health Centre.</i>	<i>South Park.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Ante-Natal.					
Number of sessions held	..	..	37	12	49
Number of Attendances :—					
(a) Primary	..	..	56	12	68
(b) Subsequent	..	..	147	23	170
Average attendance per session	..	..	5	3	5
Individual patients attending	..	..	66	15	81
Post-Natal.					
Number of sessions held	..	..	9	3	12
Number of Attendances :—					
(a) Primary	..	..	11	3	14
(b) Subsequent	..	..	—	1	1
Individual patients attending	..	..	11	3	14
Birth Control.					
Number of sessions held	..	..	10	—	10
Total attendances :—					
(a) Primary	..	..	48	—	48
(b) Subsequent	..	..	65	—	65
Individual patients attending	..	..	74	—	74
Number of patients not eligible for assistance	..	..	4	—	4

The Ante-natal Clinics are primarily intended for the medical supervision of expectant mothers who intend to be confined at home and have engaged midwives to attend them. For many years past, and especially since the outbreak of war, there has been a marked reduction in domiciliary midwifery and, in consequence, a gradual, though definite, decline in the numbers of women seeking advice at the Ante-natal Clinics. It is noteworthy that more than 70.0 per cent. of the women confined during the year were delivered in hospitals or private nursing homes, at which arrangements are made for pre-natal supervision and post-natal examination. The decline in attendances at the Ante-natal Clinics has been accentuated by the availability of free medical attention during the pregnancy and the puerperium under the National Health scheme, with consequent reduction in the number of domiciliary confinements conducted by private midwives.

Domiciliary Supervision.

Expectant mothers were supervised in their homes by the Health Visitors, who made a total of 614 visits for that purpose. Roughly three hundred of the patients visited were not in attendance at the Council's Ante-natal Clinics, but were kept under supervision at the request of the medical staff of the Redhill County Hospital, to which the patients were to be admitted subsequently for confinement.

Obstetric Consultant.

No request was received during the year for the services of a consultant in connection with obstetrical emergencies occurring in private practice. This service is less frequently required than formerly, mainly because of reduction in the proportion of confinements conducted in private dwellings.

Midwifery and Nursing Provision.

The Borough Council paid the agreed contribution to the Reigate and Redhill District Nursing Association in respect of 31 midwifery and 41 maternity nursing cases attended prior to 5th July. The staff of this Association did not undertake the nursing of any cases of infectious disease under the arrangements made by the Council.

Hospital and Nursing Home Provision.

Arrangements had been made by the Borough Council to contribute to the cost of maintenance in hospitals or nursing homes of maternity cases presenting difficulty before, during or after confinement and of patients whose home conditions were unsuitable for a confinement. Assistance of this nature was not called for in the first half of the year : in the second half, accommodation in hospital was available free of charge to those requiring it.

Home Help Scheme.

This Scheme provides for the supply of temporary domestic assistance to maternity patients confined at home and to cases of general illness, old age and infirmity, who are urgently in need of domestic help and are unable to obtain it from other sources.

Seventy-eight applicants were assisted during the year. These included seventeen maternity patients and five cases of general illness, who were supplied with whole-time help, and nineteen and thirty-seven, respectively, in each category, who had part-time help for varying periods.

On the whole, the Scheme operated very satisfactorily, and there was not a single complaint or adverse report with regard to the quality of the service given. On the contrary, the majority of applicants voluntarily expressed their unqualified approval of the manner in which the Home Helps performed the various duties assigned to them.

Maternal Mortality.

No death occurring in the area was attributed to pregnancy or child-bearing.

Births.

Particulars of live births recorded in the area during the year are as follows :

	<i>Borough residents.</i>	<i>Non- residents.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Notified by doctors	223	83	306
Notified by midwives	383	800	1,183
Notified by Registrar	19	6	25
	—	—	—
Total ..	625	889	1,514
	—	—	—

One thousand, four hundred and eighty-nine births, or 98.34 per cent. of the total, were officially notified, the remainder being reported to the Public Health Department by the local Registrar.

The nett live births accredited to the area by the Registrar were 652, of which 611 were legitimate and 41 illegitimate.

Still-births.

Still-births in the area during the year were notified as follows :

	<i>Borough residents.</i>	<i>Non- residents.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Notified by doctors	5	1	6
Notified by midwives	13	27	40
Notified by Registrar	—	—	—
	—	—	—
Total ..	18	28	46
	—	—	—

The nett still-births assigned to the area by the Registrar-General were 18, of which eight were of males and ten of females. This is equivalent to a rate of 26.8 per 1,000 total births, which approximates to the average rate recorded in the Borough.

Infant Mortality.

Eighteen infants (10 males and 8 females) died before reaching the age of one year. Only six survived the first month, the remainder dying within a few hours or days after birth. In thirteen instances death was attributed to prematurity, congenital debility or malformation, in two to accidental suffocation and in three to acute respiratory infection. The deaths from accidental suffocation were the subject of a Coroner's inquest. Ten infants died in hospital and three in private nursing homes.

The infant mortality rate for the year was 28 per thousand live births. This is the second lowest recorded in the Borough, and compares favourably with that for England and Wales (34) and for towns comparable in size with Reigate (32).

Infant Welfare Clinics.

Facilities for the medical supervision of infants under school age are provided at the Health Centres at Shaw's Corner and South Park, and also in rented premises in Merstham and Earlswood.

The new clinic building in Earlswood was completed by the end of the year, but could not be put into use immediately because of the delay in obtaining essential items of furniture and equipment.

Particulars of attendances at the Infant Welfare Clinics are summarised in Table IX. It is noteworthy that the numbers of children in attendance and the average attendance per session were not much affected by the provision of free medical advice and treatment by medical practitioners accepting service under the National Health Service Act.

TABLE IX.

PARTICULARS OF ATTENDANCES AT INFANT WELFARE CLINICS
DURING THE YEAR 1948.

	<i>Health Centre.</i>	<i>South Park.</i>	<i>Merstham.</i>	<i>Earlswood.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Number of Sessions held ..	90	45	45	41	221
Average attendance per Session	47	49	35	22	48
Number of children who attended during the year	566	278	182	133	1159
Number of children who attended for the first time during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance, were :—					
Under 1 year of age ..	206	65	58	26	355
1—5 years	25	11	9	1	46
Total	231	76	67	27	401
Attendances by children :—					
Under 1 year	2983	1335	1007	469	5794
1—5 years	1256	975	563	429	3223
Total	4239	2310	1570	898	9017

Minor Ailments Clinics.

The treatment of minor defects in young infants is undertaken daily at the School Clinic at the Health Centre, and at Merstham and South Park Schools.

The conditions treated were as follows :—

	<i>Cases.</i>	<i>Attendances.</i>
Minor eye defects	17	58
Minor ear defects	1	1
Impetigo	2	4
Other skin diseases	4	24
Septic sores	1	1
Minor injuries	1	1
Miscellaneous	7	13
	—	—
Total ..	33	102
	—	—

Ophthalmic Clinic.

The following is a summary of the cases treated at the Ophthalmic Clinic during the year :—

Number of new cases referred for examination	7
Number for whom glasses prescribed	4
Number for whom glasses were obtained	4
Received other forms of treatment	2
Advised observation only	1
Number of old cases re-examined	6
Verification of glasses	5
Total attendances	23

Dental Clinic.

Dental treatment is provided for expectant mothers, nursing mothers and pre-school children who are in regular attendance at the various clinics, and who are specially referred to the Dental Surgeon by the doctor conducting the clinic.

The following is a summary of the work of the Dental Clinic for the year :—

Number of sessions devoted to inspection and treatment	34
„ „ expectant mothers treated	17
„ „ nursing „ ..	30
„ „ pre-school children „ ..	102

Number of extractions :—

Temporary teeth	..	..	52	
Permanent teeth	..	..	143	
			—	195
,, ,, fillings :—				
Temporary teeth	..	..	83	
Permanent teeth	..	..	50	
			—	133
,, ,, other operations ..	..	..	..	335
,, ,, general anæsthetics for extraction ..			..	51
,, ,, local ,, ,, ,,			..	5
,, ,, patients supplied with dentures			..	12
Dentures supplied—complete plates ..			..	14
—partial ,,			..	8
Total attendances :—				
Mothers	..	..	..	184
Children	..	..	..	160
			—	344

Orthopaedic Treatment.

Several cases of minor crippling and postural defect were successfully corrected at the Infant Welfare and Remedial Exercises Clinics. Arrangements were made for more serious cases to be examined and treated by the orthopaedic specialists attached to local hospitals.

The County Council agreed to cancel an outstanding debt of £1. 11s. 9d. in respect of an appliance prescribed for a crippled child.

Child Life Protection.

There was no important alteration of the arrangements made for the care and supervision of foster children in the area. Although the County Council assumed responsibility for child life protection in the second half of the year, it was agreed that the existing arrangements should continue in force until the newly-created Children's Department is fully staffed and in a position to undertake the duties involved.

No serious breach of the regulations relating to foster children was discovered during the year, nor was it necessary to resort to legal action for the removal of any child from unsuitable premises or from the care of unsatisfactory foster parents.

One child was legally adopted by his foster parents and four, in respect of whom maintenance payments were very much in arrear, became chargeable to the Public Assistance Authority.

The general standard of care in individual foster homes and residential nurseries in the Borough is, on the whole, satisfactory. At one private residential nursery there has repeatedly been difficulty in ensuring compliance with the conditions imposed in regard to the number and qualifications of the nursery staff employed: the proprietress has been warned on more than one occasion of the action that may be taken in the event of continued failure to observe strictly the conditions of registration already indicated to her.

The following particulars are taken from the Register of Foster-children :—

Number of foster-children on Register at the beginning				
	of the year			32
,,	added to the Register during the year ..			78
,,	Removed from the Register :—			
	On reaching the age of nine years ..		1	
,,	leaving the district		4	
,,	returning to parents		71	
,,	death		—	
			—	76
,,	of foster-children on Register at the end of			
	the year			34
,,	of approved foster-mothers in the district ..			23
Visits to foster-children				388

The Child Protection Visitor also exercises regular supervision over children boarded-out in the Borough by other local authorities, and made a total of sixty-one visits for this purpose.

The Care of Premature Infants.

All necessary and practicable action has been taken to comply with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health with regard to the care of premature infants.

Twenty-nine live births to women normally resident in the Borough were notified as premature. Twenty-one of the infants were born in hospitals or nursing homes and eight in private dwellings: five of the former and one of the latter failed to survive the first

month. This does not represent an unduly high mortality rate for infants prematurely born.

Premature infants who were nursed at home and those recently discharged from hospital received special attention from the Health Visitors and at the Infant Welfare Clinics.

The Care of Illegitimate Children.

The arrangements originally made by the Borough Council for the care of illegitimate infants continued in force throughout the year. These arrangements included the payment of an annual grant to the Reigate Ruri-Decanal Association for Moral Welfare and of one-half of the cost of maintenance of any unmarried mother and her child admitted to one of the Association's hostels on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health, priority of admission to the Council's Day Nursery of illegitimate infants whose mothers were in regular employment or were otherwise unable to care for them and, in certain cases, financial aid to approved foster mothers undertaking the care of illegitimate infants for whom a reasonable standard of care could not otherwise be provided.

Seven unmarried expectant mothers were recommended for admission to suitable hostels, under the arrangements described above, the County Council paying, in full, the maintenance charges arising after 5th July.

Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939.

It is a requirement of Section 7 of the above-named Act that private individuals, other than parents, guardians or prospective adopters, who participate in the arrangements for the placing of children for adoption shall give notice to the Welfare Authority of the area in which the child is to be placed. No Notice was received under the Section during the year.

The Child Protection Visitor investigated and reported upon the home circumstances of five persons with whom infants were to be placed by one or other of the registered Adoption Societies, and maintained supervision over the infants after they had been received.

Domiciliary Visits.

The number of visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year are set out in the following summary :—

Expectant mothers :—				
Primary Visits	..	..	..	375
Subsequent Visits	..	..	..	239
				— 614
Infants under 12 months :—				
Primary Visits	..	..	..	663
Subsequent Visits	..	..	..	1,926
				— 2,589
Children aged 1—5 years	..	..
Total visits :	..	..	..	.. 4,564
Foster-children :—				
Total visits	..	..	..	— 388
Visits to cases of infectious disease :—				
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		..	..	—
Pneumonia	..	..	..	28
Diphtheria	..	..	..	—
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	3
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	282
Measles	..	in infants under 5 years of age		338
German Measles	..			—
Mumps	..			1
Chicken Pox	..			15
Scabies	..			—
				— 667
Visits to :—				
Still births	..	..	..	9
Infant deaths	..	..	..	13
				— 22
Other visits	..	..	..	1,567
				—
Grand Total	..			10,411

The total number of visits is higher than in 1947 or 1946, due mainly to the greater number of visits paid to cases of infectious disease. Visits to foster-children and to children between the ages of one and five years are also greater than usual. Miscellaneous visits in the second half of the year included several to mentally defective persons under supervision or guardianship.

Day Nursery.

The Day Nursery at Cromwell Road, Redhill, was originally designed to provide accommodation for a maximum of 40 children. For several years the Nursery has been filled to capacity, and, in consequence, there has been considerable delay in the admission of eligible applicants. It was, accordingly, decided to extend the building to increase the maximum accommodation to 50 and, at the same time, to provide a separate milk room and make much-needed improvements in the staff quarters. The extensions were completed by the end of the year, but could not be fully utilised until additional trained nursery staff had been recruited.

Admission to the Day Nursery, especially in the second half of the year, was in general restricted to children whose mothers were in regular whole-time employment and for whom suitable alternative arrangements could not be made. All new entrants were medically examined before admission or re-admission, the total number of examinations made for the purpose being 37. The physical standard of the children examined was reasonably satisfactory, and it was rarely necessary to refuse or postpone admission for medical reasons.

Attendances throughout the year were well maintained and were not seriously affected by infectious illness, having due regard to the unusual prevalence of measles and whooping-cough in the neighbourhood and the high degree of susceptibility of the children in attendance. The average daily attendances of children under and over the age of two years were 16 and 20.5 respectively.

The Day Nursery has been approved by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education for the practical training of candidates for the new National Nursery Certificate. Students in training attend for theoretical instruction at courses organised by the Croydon and Surrey Education Departments.

BOROUGH OF REIGATE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year 1948.

Public Health Department,

Caberfeigh,

Hatchlands Road,

REDHILL.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I submit herewith my fifteenth Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary Inspectors which, during 1948, continued to be concentrated chiefly on the supervision of building repair work under licence and otherwise, the inspection of accommodation occupied by applicants for Corporation houses, meat and food inspection and the improvement of hygienic conditions in food premises.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to deal with the repair of dwelling-houses which were subject to rent control before the war. Increasing cost of labour and material makes extensive repairs uneconomical, and owners naturally hesitate to incur expenditure which may amount to the equivalent of several years' rent. This is the case particularly where the rent forms the larger part of an owner's income. It is only by persistence, both by interview and correspondence, that owners can be persuaded to put in hand the works specified in informal notices. It is now becoming more often necessary to recommend formal statutory action, either under the nuisance sections of the Public Health Act, 1936, or,

in a few cases, under the repairs section (Section 9) of the Housing Act, 1936, to secure the repair of houses which are urgently in need of attention. In the four instances where the latter section was used in 1948, the estimated cost of the repairs was 7 per cent., 12½ per cent., 17 per cent. and 39 per cent. respectively of the estimated value of the house when the works were completed.

During 1948, a considerable amount of time was spent in dealing with applications for housing accommodation referred to me by the Council's Housing & Valuation Officer for an assessment of the housing need of the applicant, having regard to the conditions existing in the house in which he and his family already reside. Enquiries were made in 338 cases, the results being reflected in the number of points entered on the appropriate section of the record, which forms the basis of the Council's Points Allocation Scheme. It is not the purpose of this report to describe the unsatisfactory conditions under which so many families are living ; it is sufficient to say that the assessment of a particular family's housing need cannot accurately be measured by means of points ; there are so many factors which make each case so different. The Points Scheme is an attempt to deal with each application as fairly and impartially as possible, and in practice the scheme does give the Housing Sub-Committee a reliable basis on which to allocate available vacant housing accommodation. In addition to the above-named work, 46 investigations were instituted into applications made to other Local Authorities by families resident in this Borough. The subsequent reports were made to, and at the request of, the Local Authorities concerned.

Progress continues to be made in the standard of hygiene of food premises ; consideration was given to the adoption of bye-laws with respect to the handling, wrapping, etc., of food, under Section 15 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, but the matter was deferred, as the Minister of Health did not consider the model bye-laws entirely satisfactory to meet the requirements of existing conditions.

At the end of 1947, I drew the Council's attention to what appeared to be wasteful administration and duplication of effort in connection with rodent and insect control work in the Borough, particularly in respect of properties in the occupation of the Surrey County Council and certain Government Departments. Early in 1948, the question was discussed at a meeting of representatives

of the authorities concerned ; at a later date it formed the subject of a conference of Local Authorities' representatives called by the Surrey County Council. One of the results of these deliberations was that, as from 1st November, 1948, pest control work on County Council properties has been carried out on a contract basis by the pest control staff of this Department. The arrangement, which is working satisfactorily, was made possible by a small reorganisation of staff and transport, whereby the officers employed on rodent control, disinfection, disinfestation and general outside duties have been made interchangeable and work under the supervision of the Pests Officer. Similar work is also carried out on a contract basis at Institutions in the Borough under the control of the Group Hospital Management Committee.

During the year four students were accepted into the Department from the Battersea Polytechnic, at eight-weekly intervals, for part of their practical training in connection with a course organised in accordance with the scheme inaugurated by the Ministry of Health, the Sanitary Inspectors' Association and other bodies, to secure the supply and training of Sanitary Inspectors. Tuition and practical demonstrations in various aspects of environmental hygiene were also given on several occasions during the year to parties of student nurses from training hospitals in the district.

I acknowledge the willing and loyal assistance given to me by my colleagues throughout the year. One of them, Mr. A. J. Stewart, retired in September, 1948 ; it has been my pleasure to work with him in the Department for twenty-two of the 40 years he has worked here as an Assistant Sanitary Inspector ; a request to him to return to duty temporarily, to replace an assistant pending his return from the Forces, was a fitting testimonial to his past service, and I am pleased to record that, at the time of writing this report, he is still at work in the Department. I also wish to express my gratitude to Dr. Bingham, Medical Officer of Health, for the help and advice which is at all times so willingly given.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. JANES,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Infectious Diseases, Disinfection and Disinfestation.

During the year 68 visits of enquiry were made in connection with infectious disease. Twenty-six library books were disinfected by formalin vapour and returned to the libraries from which they had been borrowed.

The Table on page 57 shows in detail the work carried out by the Disinfecting Officer in connection with disinfection and disinfestation.

During the year 9 houses, two of which were owned by the Corporation, were disinfested owing to the presence of bed-bugs; one house was disinfested on account of fleas and three on account of cockroaches.

During the summer months routine work of pest control was interrupted and, to a small extent, disorganised by requests from occupiers of properties for assistance in destroying wasps' nests which, in many cases, are found in most inaccessible places, such as in roofs, under floors, in cavity walls, etc. Fifty-eight nests were destroyed in 1948.

A request was made by the Management of a large hospital in the Borough for assistance in dealing with an extensive infestation by cockroaches. Investigation revealed that the large main kitchen and all the ward kitchens were heavily infested by "steam-flies" (*Blatella Germanica*) and that "black beetles" (*Blatta Orientalis*) were prevalent in such places as the lift-shafts, heating ducts, etc. The infestation was quickly brought under control, and eventually eradicated, by the use of a D.D.T.-Pyrethrum emulsion.

A number of complaints were received in April of large swarms of flies in the vicinity of houses in various parts of the Borough. Enquiries made at the Natural History Section of the British Museum elicited the information that, due to favourable weather conditions, there was an abnormal migration of the fly species, *Musca Autumnalis*, from hibernation in the roof spaces of buildings to the countryside. It was learned that these unusual infestations were reported over a wide area of the south of England. They were not considered to be a source of danger, but for the few days they persisted they were undoubtedly a nuisance to the people in the immediate neighbourhood. It was suggested that it might be well to advise spraying of roof spaces in the autumn, where hibernation had previously occurred, with a D.D.T. insecticide, in order to kill the flies if they returned to the same places; this was done in five instances.

DETAIL OF WORK CARRIED OUT AT CORPORATION STEAM DISINFECTING STATION, 1948

1948	BEDDING.				FURNISHINGS, etc.				Total. 1948.	Total. 1947	Vermineous Persons Cleansed.		Infected Rooms.	Ambulances and Hackney Carriages.	School Dormitories.	Hospital Wards.	Police Cells.
											1948	1947					
REIGATE BOROUGH																	
Notifiable Diseases	3	8	24	20	5	13	7	15	95	147	-	-	25	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases ...	2	2	7	9	-	-	-	-	20	46	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Vermineous—Scabies	2	4	6	14	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	34	-	-	-	-	-
—Bugs...	-	2	-	17	-	-	6	4	30	66	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
—Lice ...	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	29	289	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
—Fleas ...	-	13	9	14	-	6	124	56	226	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
—Other...	4	366	560	252	1	-	-	58	1242	35	-	-	14	-	-	1	1
Miscellaneous ...	5									13593	-	-		-	-		
TOTAL	16	395	606	326	6	19	137	137	1642	14191	-	37	40	-	-	7	1
DORKING AND HORLEY R.D.C.																	
Infectious Diseases	2	6	15	10	-	1	-	4	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vermineous ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous ...	4	39	108	45	1	4	18	21	240	213	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	6	45	123	55	1	5	18	25	278	214	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
GODSTONE R.D.C.																	
Infectious Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vermineous ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous ...	1	3	8	12	-	-	-	1	25	108	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	3	8	12	-	-	-	1	25	142	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

(a) Meat.

The slaughterhouse in West Road, Reigate, controlled by the Ministry of Food, continued to be used for the routine weekly slaughter of calves, sheep and pigs and the emergency slaughter of other food animals. Inspection of the dressed carcasses and organs is made as a matter of routine on several evenings during the week and often during the week-end.

The results of inspection are given in Tables I and II. The percentage of cattle slaughtered found to be affected with disease remains at the high figure of 61.5, whilst the percentage affected with tuberculosis rose from 10.7 in 1947 to 38.2. It must, of course, be borne in mind that all the cattle are sent in for slaughter on account of illness or injury. There was a large increase in the number of calves sent in for slaughter—3,195 as compared with 1,770 in 1947—but the incidence of disease in these animals was slightly lower. More than twice as many pigs were slaughtered in 1948 than in 1947—the percentage affected with tuberculosis rose from 5.6 in 1947 to 8.5. It is of interest to record that a specimen from a pig carcass thought to be affected by sarcosporidia was sent for examination by the Pathologist of the Ministry of Health Emergency Pathological Service Laboratory at Epsom; he reported that the prepared section showed a histological picture suggesting cysticercosis.

The number of cows slaughtered included four which were dealt with by the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, under the Tuberculosis Order, and which were sent to the slaughterhouse with a view to salvaging such parts of the carcasses, etc., as were found on post-mortem inspection to be fit for human consumption.

Five calves found on inspection to be affected with generalised tuberculosis were referred to the Divisional Veterinary Inspector with a view to tracing the source of infection.

TABLE I.
CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1948.

	<i>Cattle, excluding Cows.</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>	<i>Bulls (included in Cattle Col.)</i>
Number killed	26	117	3195	2775	233	9
Number inspected ..	26	117	3195	2775	233	9
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :—						
Whole carcasses con- demned	4	16	9	8	13	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	50	18	181	127	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ..	61.5%	56.4%	.84%	6.8%	6.0%	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY—						
Whole carcasses con- demned	5	14	9	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	22	6	—	19	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	38.2%	30.8%	.54%	—	8.5%	—

The total weight of carcasses and offals condemned was 13 tons.

At one period of the year, complaints were made by local butchers of the manurial-contaminated condition of carcasses sent for retail sale from the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse at Croydon. Representations made to the Ministry were followed by some improvement, but, in my view, the chief, though indirect, cause of contamination is the engagement of slaughtermen at piece-work rates of wages, which encourages the use of hasty and slipshod methods of work ; it may also be caused indirectly through ignorance on the part of the slaughtermen of the elementary principles of hygiene. I consider that before a slaughterman is licensed he should undergo a proper course of instruction in his duties.

TABLE II.
MEAT INSPECTION—REASONS FOR CONDEMNATION.

DESCRIPTION	Number Slaughtered	Tuber- culosis.		Other Conditions.											Totals				
		Generalised	Localised	Fevered	Dropsy and Emaciation	Pyæmia	Injury	Septicæmia	Distomatosis and Cirrhosis	Parasitic	Abscesses	Pleurisy	Pneumonia	Actinomycosis		Cavernous Angioma	Miscellaneous		
BOVINES—	143	19	7	4	4	3	11	8										1	39
Whole Carcases and Offal	12	..	2	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	32
Part Carcase	30	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	17
Heads and Tongues	16	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	3	..	..	..	..	5	..	1	32
Lungs	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Livers and Part Livers	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Hearts..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Skirts	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Spleens..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
Kidneys	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
Mesentery and Intestines	5	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	..	..
CALVES—	3195	9	..	..	1	4	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	18	
Whole Carcases and Offal	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	3	6	
Part Carcases..	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	18	
Lungs	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	8	..	..	..	..	..	2	14	
Livers	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
SHEEP—	2775	..	..	..	4	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	8	
Whole Carcases and Offal	7	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	20	30	
Part Carcases	2	..	..	51	1	..	1	..	..	..	10	65	
Lungs	2	..	104	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	5	112	
Livers	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
PIGS—	233	1	..	3	2	..	7	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	14	
Whole Carcases and Offal	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	11	
Part Carcases	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	16	
Heads and Tongues	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	8	..	..	..	1	19	
Lungs	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	7	
Livers	15	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	76	97	..	..
Mesentery and Intestines
TOTAL	6346	29	129	8	14	8	39	11	113	68	19	9	10	3	5	173	638	..	..

(b) Other Foods.

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and disposed of accordingly.

Dried Fruit	..	..	..	3 qtrs. 7 lbs.
Dried Peas	..	..	..	1 qtr. 6 lbs.
Tinned Meat	..	..	..	13 cwts. 1 qtr. 26 lbs.
Sweets and Chocolate	..	..	..	6 lbs.
Bacon	..	..	..	3 qtrs. 2 lbs.
Meat and Offal	..	..	..	5 cwts. 1 qtr. 8 lbs.
Cereals	..	..	..	1 cwt. 1 qtr. 4 lbs.
Biscuits and Cake	..	..	..	1 cwt. 6 lbs.
Flour	..	..	..	1 cwt. 1 qtr. 17 lbs.
Macaroni	..	..	..	1 cwt. 3 qtrs.
Crumpets	..	..	..	150
Oatmeal	..	..	..	1 cwt. 2 qtrs. 14 lbs.
Butter, Margarine, etc.	..	..	..	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Dried Egg	..	..	..	1 qtr. 2 lbs.
Eggs	..	..	..	9 dozen
Sugar and Preserves	..	..	..	1 cwt. 3 qtrs. 2 3lbs.
Barley Pudding Mixture	..	..	..	238 packets
Cheese	..	..	..	1 cwt. 1 qtr. 18 lbs.
Potatoes	..	..	..	14 cwts.
Fresh Fruit	..	..	..	2 qtrs. 4 lbs.
Pickles	..	..	..	128 bottles
Salad Dressing	..	..	..	33 jars
Mineral Oil	..	..	..	13 bottles
Tomato Juice	..	..	..	18 tins
Orange and Lemon Squash	..	..	..	8 bottles
Fish Paste	..	..	..	34 jars
Fresh Fish	..	..	..	37 cwts. 2 stone 14 lbs.
Tinned Fish	..	..	..	113 tins
Tinned Milk	..	..	..	296 tins
Tinned Beans	..	..	..	169 tins
Tinned Peas	..	..	..	87 tins
Tinned Fruit	..	..	..	403 tins
Tinned Turnips	..	..	..	36 tins
Tinned Carrots	..	..	..	116 tins
Tinned Beetroot	..	..	..	279 tins

Miscellaneous :—

Tinned Food, etc.	..	..	344 tins
Packet food, etc.	..	..	292 packets

This work involved 307 visits.

Most of the condemned food was utilised for the feeding of animals ; no edible food was wasted. In this connection there was the closest co-operation with the Food Executive Officer, the Divisional Food Salvage Officer of the Ministry of Food and local members of the food distributive trades.

In accordance with Section 34 (1) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, registration was made of premises at Redhill used for carrying on the business of a wholesaler in margarine.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938—Sections 13 & 14.

The Register of food premises now includes the following :—

Grocers, etc...	..	..	..	..	..	..	95
Butchers, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	39
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
Fishmongers and Fish-fryers	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Confectioners (including 20 bakehouses)	..	..	..	..	..	..	110
Restaurants, Cafés, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	121

Three-hundred-and-seventeen visits of inspection were made to food premises ; this number does not include the many visits which have to be made at the request of traders to issue condemnation certificates for unsound food. In 17 shops improvements were made in the provision of toilet facilities for the use of employees (for example, wash-hand basins, hot and cold water, etc.). In 6 cases considerable structural alterations were carried out to comply with the requirements of Section 13.

The effect of Section 14 of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, on the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream has, in this Borough, undoubtedly been beneficial. Two premises are registered for manufacture and 35 Certificates of Registration have been granted to retailers in respect of premises used for retail sale only ; eight of these were granted in 1948. The majority of retailers sell ice-cream packed by the manufacturers either in cartons or grease-proof paper. Particular attention is paid by your Inspectors to those premises where ice-cream is served to customers from bulk supplies, either in wafer-biscuits or cornets,

to see that the metal servers, etc., are kept in a clean condition. There are 12 catering establishments where ice-cream is sold by retail for consumption off the premises which are exempt from the provisions of Section 14 ; this, in my view, is a weakness in existing legislation. The powers given to Local Authorities to refuse or cancel registration are most useful in obtaining and maintaining good conditions of sale. I understand that it is the policy of the newly-formed Food Hygiene Division of the Ministry of Food to concentrate the teaching of food hygiene on food-handlers in catering establishments, as such premises are the principal breeding grounds of food-poisoning outbreaks. It would, therefore, seem logical that Local Authorities should be given all possible power to prevent the contamination of ice-cream in these places. A considerable improvement in the sale of ice-cream has been effected in local street-trading vehicles, most of which are now equipped with hot and cold water, etc., for use of the vendor, and are so designed as to reduce the possibility of contamination of the product by dust. The itinerant vendor who, in the past, has brought his vehicle and his doubtful product into the district on occasions when the weather has favoured the sale of ice-cream, was not seen in the Borough very much in 1948 ; possibly because it was a wet summer, but more probably because the prompt enquiries made by your Inspectors when the vendor is first seen, and their requests for improved conditions not only create a certain amount of difficulty for the vendor in obtaining supplies from his wholesaler, but may suggest to his mind that it is less trouble to sell ice-cream elsewhere.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Four new annual licences were granted and renewals were issued to 8 slaughtermen.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

The entries in the registers required to be kept in accordance with the Order may be summarised as follows :—

Cowkeepers	18
Dairymen and Retail Purveyors with premises in the Borough	4
Retail Purveyors, with premises outside the Borough ..	6
Retail Purveyors—bottled milk only sold in general shops	6
Cowsheds	19
Dairies (including 8 milkshops)	12

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

A detailed report on 111 samples of milk taken in 1948 is given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Diseases of Animals Acts—Disinfection.

Disinfection of vehicles continued to be carried out at the Redhill Market each Monday during the year, when 89 vehicles were dealt with.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938—Sampling.

(D. D. Moir, Esq., M.Sc., F.I.C., Public Analyst).

Details of the samples taken and submitted to the Public Analyst during 1948 are given in the Table on page 65 :—

Of the 9 samples reported on unfavourably by the Public Analyst—

- (a) A sample of malt vinegar submitted informally for analysis contained a small proportion of added salt ; beyond drawing the attention of the manufacturer to the observations of the Public Analyst, no further action was taken ;
- (b) Two samples of sausage-meat contained only 27 per cent. and 46 per cent. of meat respectively ; the Public Health Committee decided, in view of the past record of the vendors, not to institute legal proceedings but to issue a formal caution in both cases ;
- (c) A sample of mineral oil was reported on as not suitable for use as a food for human consumption ; a sample of a consignment of canned grapefruit contained an excessive proportion of tin and was otherwise unfit for food. In both cases action was taken to get available stocks withdrawn from sale, both locally and in other districts ;
- (d) A sample of pasteurised milk was very slightly deficient in solids other than fat ;
- (e) A sample of milk sold as “ Channel Island ” milk contained 3.64 per cent. of milk-fat instead of 4 per cent., the standard given in the Milk (Control & Maximum Prices) Order, 1947. The milk was produced in the district of a neighbouring Food & Drugs Authority, whose sampling officer took the necessary action in co-operation with the Milk Division of the Ministry of Food ;

FOODSTUFFS.	SAMPLES TAKEN.				Total	Genuine	Adulter- ated
	<i>First quarter</i>	<i>Second quarter</i>	<i>Third quarter</i>	<i>Fourth quarter</i>			
Milk	7	10	7	5	29	25	4
Flour	3	—	—	—	3	3	—
Flour Mixture	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Baking Powder	3	—	—	—	3	3	—
Cream of Tartar	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Bicarbonate of Soda	2	—	—	—	2	2	—
Tea	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Worcester Sauce	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Mustard	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Coffee Essence	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Liver Sausage	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Salami Sausage	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Sausage Meat	4	—	—	—	4	2	2
Vinegar	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Ice-cream	4	—	—	—	4	4	—
Jellied Veal	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Mineral Oil	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Mint	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Dried Onion	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Grapefruit	—	1	—	—	1	—	1
Butter	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Margarine	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Cooking Fat	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Sweetened Fat	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
Cheese	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Canned Peas	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Pork Pies	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Pork Offal Brawn	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Meat Pies	—	2	—	—	2	2	—
Paté-de-foie	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Cocoa	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Gelatine	1	2	—	1	4	4	—
Ground White Pepper	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Apple Juice	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Toffee	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Sweetening Tablets	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
Tincture of Iodine	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
Senna Pods	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
Aspirin Tablets	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
Friars Balsam	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
Curry Powder	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Ground Oatmeal	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Salad Cream	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Salad Oil	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Lemon Squash	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Orange Crush	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Vanilla Flavour	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Whisky	—	—	—	6	6	6	—
Beer	—	—	—	8	8	8	—
Gin	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Total ..	36	27	13	29	105	96	9

(f) A sample of milk reported on as being deficient in milk-fat to the extent of 20 per cent. was followed up by the taking of two samples in course of transit from the producer. One of these showed a deficiency of 10 per cent. of milk-fat—this result, together with other enquiries which were made, proved that the milk had not been tampered with, but that part of the herd was giving milk of poor quality.

The attention of the Food Standards & Labelling Division of the Ministry of Food was drawn to a report by the Public Analyst on selected specimens (not included in the above Table) of food processed in aluminium cans. This report was asked for in view of the difficulty which your Inspectors were experiencing in making a decision as to fitness or unfitness for food of the particular type of aluminium pack; it was found that an unusually high proportion of aluminium alloy cans presented either a definite “blown” appearance or “spring” under pressure, but in the majority of cases on opening the cans the contents were found to be sound. The Analyst was of opinion that:—

“the absence of more than the slightest positive or negative pressure in these packs is highly significant. It indicates that the method of processing used does not tend to produce a vacuum and as a result the normal concave appearance of lids and bottoms is not necessarily to be expected. Bulging may be due to stresses and strains of a soft yielding metal intensified by the shape and corrugations. In the absence of a vacuum process bulges produced during heating would not necessarily be fully corrected on cooling.”

As a result of his examination, the Analyst was further of opinion that no reliance could be placed on the outside appearance of the can in condemning articles of this nature, packed in aluminium in this way. As a result of this representation, the Ministry stated:—

“At a recent meeting attended by representatives of the Norwegian Government, the Norwegian exporters, the British Aluminium Corporation, the Ministry of Food and other interested bodies, the use of aluminium cans was thoroughly discussed.

“It was asserted that the simulation of ‘blown’ cans is due not to faulty processing but to mechanical distortion caused by inferior packaging and careless freight handling. It was also claimed that the use of improved outer containers would reduce or eliminate distortion and remove the cause of faulty inferences drawn from internal appearances only.

“As a result of this meeting, the Ministry is arranging, as a first step, to carry out experiments at the quayside to test the resistance to distortion due to poor freight handling.”

Factories Act, 1937.

The Table appended shows in detail the various trades in the Borough that come within the scope of the Act. During the year, 70 inspections were made ; in 15 cases defects were discovered, 11 of which were remedied in 1948.

<i>Business.</i>	<i>Mechanical Power.</i>	<i>No Mechanical Power.</i>
Agricultural Implement Works	1	—
Art Leather Worker	1	—
Automobile Engineers	19	3
Bakers	16	4
Basket Work	1	—
Book Binder	—	1
Boot Makers and Repairers	3	1
Brick Makers, etc.	3	—
Builders and Contractors	4	4
Cabinet Makers and Upholsterers	2	4
Container Reclamation	1	—
Cycle Makers and Repairers	1	2
Dairyman	1	—
Dressmakers and Milliners	1	3
Dry Cleaners	3	—
Electrical Engineers	2	1
Engineers	13	3
Food Manufacturers	2	1
Fuller's Earth Works	1	—
Gas Works	2	—
Hearthstone Works	1	—
Jam and Essence Makers	1	1
Knacker's Yard	—	1
Lace Frilling Works	1	—
Laundries	3	2
Log Sawing	3	—
Mineral Water Manufacturers	1	—
Monumental Masons	—	1
Newspaper Fudging	3	—
Oil Refining	1	—
Photographers and Picture Frame Makers	—	1
Pianoforte Repairers	—	1
Plumbers	1	4
Printers	6	—
Public Works Contractors	1	—
Scale Repairer	1	—
Seed Merchants	3	—
Shoeing and General Smiths	—	2
Shop Fitters	1	—
Steel Wool Manufacturers	1	—
Tailors	1	2
Timber Merchants	2	—
Toy Manufacturers	1	—
Undertakers	—	2
Vulcanising and Cycle Repair	1	—
Watchmakers	—	2
Wax Refining Works	1	—
TOTALS ..	111	46

Complaints.

The following is a summary of the complaints received during the year.

Insanitary condition of premises	..	..	..	128
House drainage	..	..	..	23
Non-removal of house refuse	..	..	..	5
Non-removal of trade refuse	..	..	..	2
Overcrowding	..	..	..	4
Rats or mice	..	..	..	233
Smells emanating from sewers and street gullies			..	3
Insect Pests	..	..	..	13
Wasps' Nests	..	..	..	58
Unsound food (sold)	..	..	..	5
Cesspools overflowing	..	..	..	4
Defective dustbin	..	..	..	7
Kitchen-waste street-bins	..	..	..	5
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	62

Notices Issued and Action taken.

The following Table is a statement of the notices dealt with during the year :—

Preliminary—

Outstanding on 1st January, 1948	..	..	190
Issued during year	..	..	218
Complied with during year	..	..	279
Statutory action necessary	..	..	17
Outstanding on 31st December, 1948	..	..	112

Statutory—

Outstanding on 1st January, 1948	..	..	18
Issued during year	..	..	17
Complied with during year	..	..	33
Outstanding on 31st December, 1948	..	..	2

The 17 Statutory Notices served during the year were classified as follows :—

Housing Act, 1936—Section 9	..	..	..	4
Public Health Act, 1936—Section 45	..	..	..	1
Public Health Act, 1936—Section 75	..	..	..	6
Public Health Act, 1936—Section 92	..	..	..	6

Nuisances Abated, Defects Remedied, etc.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year in consequence of the service of notices calling for the abatement of nuisances, or the remedying of defects found during housing inspections. The list also includes drainage works supervised following notice by builders of intention to reconstruct or repair existing drains, but does not include work carried out voluntarily in connection with the issue of building repair licences.

Drains examined and tested (primary inspections only) ..	147
Drains relaid	21
New lengths drain laid	61
Blocked drains cleared	16
New intercepting or inspection chambers constructed ..	30
New soil and vent pipes fixed	26
Soil and vent pipes renewed	10
Drain ventilation improved	3
New W.C.'s installed	37
W.C. apparatus renewed or repaired	47
W.C. flushing cisterns ditto	11
Hand-flushed W.C.'s provided with flushing apparatus ..	1
Cesspools provided or enlarged	3
„ abolished	1
Existing house drains connected to public sewer ..	1
New lavatory basins installed	32
Sinks renewed or repaired	29
Waste-pipes trapped or repaired	10
Sink gully dishings repaired	10
Pail closets abolished	1
Urinals reconstructed	4
Urinals cleansed	2
Sanitary dustbins provided	13
Leaky roofs repaired	72
Eaves gutters and stack pipes repaired	32
Backyards paved or repaired	10
Dampness remedied	23
Damp-proof courses provided	5
Pointing or otherwise weatherproofing of brickwork (houses)	56
Ventilation and light of rooms improved	9
„ „ „ „ W.C. chambers improved	2

Water-supply pipes repaired	..	..	..	5
Sub-floor ventilation improved	..	..	..	34
External paintwork of houses renewed	..	..	..	14
Internal paintwork of rooms renewed	..	..	..	15
Rooms cleansed	..	..	..	134
Ceilings cleansed	..	..	..	32
W.C. chambers cleansed	..	..	..	1
Floors repaired or renewed	..	..	..	60
Plastering of walls and ceilings repaired	..	..	..	145
Window frames or sashcords repaired	..	..	..	83
Doors repaired or renewed	..	..	..	29
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	..	..	..	45
Coppers renewed or repaired	..	..	..	14
Washing accommodation provided	..	..	..	1
Accumulations removed	..	..	..	3
Animals or poultry improperly kept	..	..	..	10
Other nuisances abated	..	..	..	36

Eighty-seven premises were visited on the application of builders for certificates to enable them to obtain timber for floor and other repairs. Fifty-five certificates, involving 87 premises, were issued for transmission to the Ministry of Supply (Timber Control). The certificates stated that the repairs were necessary in the interests of public health, and that the amount of timber for which application was made was the minimum required for the repairs specified. As the defects to be remedied were, in most cases, caused by dry rot the work was, whenever possible, carried out under close supervision so that proper remedial measures could be put in hand for removing infected material and preventing the new timber from becoming infected.

Ten applications for licences, each for an amount over £100, were forwarded to the Regional Licensing Officer with a recommendation that they be granted, to a total value of £3,524.

As from 5th February, 1945, all local licences for building work have been issued on behalf of the Ministry of Works either by the Borough Surveyor or the Chief Sanitary Inspector. The latter has dealt with all applications involving repair and maintenance of dwelling-houses and certain business premises not affected by war damage. In order to facilitate administration and save time, the practice has been adopted of meeting applicants or their builders on the properties concerned before formal application is made,

and agreeing a specification of works of repair which are considered essential and the minimum necessary for the safeguarding of health. This arrangement has worked well ; there has been the closest co-operation between the two departments concerned, and the result has been that the limited amount of labour available has been used to the best advantage. During 1948, 228 licences were issued by the Chief Sanitary Inspector in respect of 228 dwelling-houses and 44 food shops and other business premises, involving works estimated to cost £16,870.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919. Infestation Order, 1943.

The results of the year's work under this heading are shown in the tabulated statement given below. These statistics have been revised in order to coincide with the information which is given quarterly to the Ministry of Food, Infestation Branch.

	<i>Rats</i>	<i>Mice</i>
Number of complaints received from members of the Public during 1948	194	39
Number of complaints from members of the Public investigated during 1948	205	34
Number of above premises found not to be infested	50	2
Number of premises found to be infested as a result of independent investigation ..	6	—
Number of Infested Premises treated and successfully cleared during 1948	155	27
Number of Infested Premises which required re-treatment	—	—
Number of Infested Premises under or awaiting treatment at the end of the year	39	7
Number of Complaints awaiting investigation at the end of the year	15	5
Estimated Total Kill by Poison (Ministry Formula)	1,803	
Number of rats killed by other means (dogs, traps, etc.)	381	

In addition to the above work, maintenance treatment of the public sewers was continued in January, June and December, 1948. On the first occasion, 33 manholes were baited, poisoning being found necessary only at 15 ; the estimated kill was 50 rats. The result of the treatment showed an improvement in the degree

of infestation compared with previous inspections ; e.g., negative results were obtained for the first time in the sewerage system of the Merstham area, and in only two manholes in the Reigate area were takes recorded. In June, the whole of the sewerage system was again tested ; 194 points were baited, but only 18 were in need of treatment by pre-baiting and poisoning ; the estimated kill on this occasion was 60 rats. In December, a maintenance treatment was carried out by 37 manholes being baited, poisoning being found necessary at 16 ; the estimated kill was 95 rats.

An extensive maintenance treatment was carried out at the Council's Sewage and Refuse Disposal Works in January, 1948, pre-baiting and poisoning being undertaken at 128 points ; the estimated kill was 220 rats. In November, owing to an abnormal seasonal influx of rats to the Disposal Works, a systematic poisoning treatment was undertaken. Pre-baiting and poisoning was carried out at 347 points ; the estimated kill was 875 rats. In this case, it would appear that there must have been a migratory movement of rats into the immediate neighbourhood of the Works, as in October there was little evidence of infestation.

The work mentioned in the above tabulated statement also does not include work carried out under contract arrangements with :

- (a) the Surrey County Council at all their premises in this Borough ; these include the Public Assistance Institution and its ancillary homes, 24 schools and 4 school kitchens ; and
- (b) the Group Hospital Management Committee at the Redhill County Hospital.

Four meetings of the Surrey No. 3 Workable Area Committee were held during the year, and were well attended by representatives from the Ministry of Food, the Surrey County Council, Caterham and Warlingham U.D.C., Dorking U.D.C., Godstone R.D.C., Leatherhead U.D.C., Reigate Borough Council and the Surrey County Agricultural Executive Committee.

Public Mortuary.

During the year bodies were deposited at the Reigate Mortuary for the following purposes :—

Post-mortem examination	46
Inquest	1
Convenience	—

Legal Proceedings.

No legal proceedings were instituted during 1948.



R2/68